

March 29, 2002

Dear Crown Hill Resident:

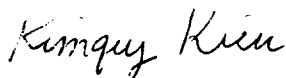
*Bacillus thuringiensis kurstaki* (Btk) is a naturally occurring bacteria found in the soil. The dormant form of the bacteria is commonly used as a pesticide to control moths such as the gypsy moth. Public Health -Seattle & King County has reviewed available literature on Btk, including toxicological analyses and reports from persons who had symptoms of illness after Btk was sprayed in their neighborhoods.

Public Health believes that Btk has not been shown to cause illness to humans when applied according to the manufacturer's instructions. Some people have reported experiencing skin rash, irritation of the eyes, nose and throat and/or hay-fever-like symptoms after exposure to Btk. It is not known whether these symptoms were related to the Btk exposure or other causes. Furthermore, it is not known whether symptoms might have been related to Btk or whether the symptoms were related to allergic reactions associated with the spray components.

Though Btk has an excellent safety record, Public Health suggests that residents of spray areas, especially persons with compromised immune systems and persons with respiratory illness, take precautions to minimize their exposure to the spray. We advise people in the spray area to stay inside for 30 minutes after the spray occurs and to have children avoid playing outside until moisture from the grass and spray has dried. If you should come in contact with the spray, wash the affected skin with soap and water. If spray should get into the eyes, flush them with water for 15 minutes.

If you have concerns about Btk, your exposure or your immune status we advise you to contact your health care provider for advice. We have additional information on gypsy moths and Btk on the Public Health website: [http://www.metrokc.gov/health/env\\_hlth/gypsy.htm](http://www.metrokc.gov/health/env_hlth/gypsy.htm)

Sincerely,



Kimquy Kieu, MD, MPH  
Manager, Environmental Hazard Section

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